

THE WEEKLYFOR WOMEN – TWO BECOME ONE?

VOLUNTEER TO OPEN IN PRAYER

BREAKING ICE (20 min.)

Let's be sensitive to all present maybe some have had hard experiences in marriage (or may be going through a hard time) others may have a great marriage – be considerate as you share. Let Agape love reign in your group. We all have much to learn!

Growing up.... (sharing optional)

What was your parent's marriage like? Are they still together?

What did you like most about their relationship?

What did you like least about their relationship?

How has their marriage affected you in regard to how you interact with members of the opposite sex?

If you are or have been married share one thing you learned?

LOOK TO THE BOOK:

PART 1 (20 min)

Read:

"The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man.'" For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. (Gen 2:23-25)

What is going on here?

Is there anything to learn in a deeper spiritual sense?

Read:

John 17:20-23 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

*Ac 2:46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,
Ac 4:32 ¶ All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.
Ro 12:5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

1Co 1:10 ¶ I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

1Co 12:12 ¶ The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.

1Co 12:25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

1Co 12:26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

1Co 12:27 ¶ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Ga 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Eph 4:3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

How is being a believer and a part of the body of Christ... like being in a marriage?

Are we not supposed to become one.... and be able to be "naked" (truly known – open and honest) before each other and feel no shame.

Is this really happening in the church? Why? Or Why not?

PART 2 (40 min) (split into groups of men and women)

WOMEN:

How do you feel about the women's movement?

If married is your husband the spiritual leader of your family? How does this work itself out in practice? How should this work itself out in practice?

Read Ephesians 5:21-33

Does your husband love you with Agape Love? Would he die for you? Has he sent her flowers or written you a note recently? Has he told you how great you are? Does he fill up your love tank regularly? Be honest are these things important to you? How do you want him to demonstrate his love for you?

Does your husband know that you love him? Does your husband think you like him?

Does he play a leadership role in your family? Would he say that you allow him and encourage him to take this role on? Do you disagree with this whole idea? Are you open to considering it?

Do you think there is any relationship between his Agape love for you, and you being able to respect him (and allow him to lead)?

Did you read the men's handout?

Regather for OPEN PRAYER / MEDITATION 10 min